THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is not aware of any agreement entered into with any foreign company to establish a ski village in around 100 acres of land of Manali and adjacent area in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Mandatory AIDS test for recruits in army

†1670. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to make AIDS test compulsory in future for the first time for the applicants before recruiting them in the army; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The proposal to make Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) test mandatory for new entrants into the Armed Forces is under consideration.

Infiltration attempts by terrorists

1671. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infiltration attempts made by terrorists from Pakistan to cross the LoC for terrorist activities into India;

(b) the comparable figures for three previous years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the terrorist infrastrcuture is still intact in Pakistan specially PoK?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total of 108, 79 and 61 infiltration/exfiltration bids were eliminated by the Army on Line of Control (LoC) in the year 2003, 2004

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and 2005 respectively. During such bids, 286, 140 and 180 terrorists were killed respectively. The number of infiltration assessed during the above period was 1373, 349 and 335 respectively.

(c) No evidence exists to indicate that terrorists infrastructure across the border in Pakistan and PoK has been dismantled.

Setting up of new terror camps by Pakistan

1672. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has set up new terror camps and have revived terrorist training camps;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that terrorists are now infiltrating through non-traditional routes;

(c) if so, the details of such routes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to counter such acts of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Terrorists are infiltrating through both traditional and non-traditional routes. The Government has adopted a multi pronged approach to contain cross border infiltration. The overall counter infiltration measures deployed by the Army include a multi-tiered arrangement on the LoC alongwith fencing, improved intelligence, operational coordination and relentless operations in the hinterland so as to ensure that infiltration is minimised and violence levels in the State of Jammu and Kashmir kept under check.

Maintenance of NH 22 by GREF

†1673. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway No. 22 connecting Himachal Pradesh is the only such road which connects tribal district Kinnaur and Indo-Tibetan Border with the country and which is maintained by General Reserve Engineer Force;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.